Applicant has carefully reviewed and amended Claim 17, as deemed necessary, to ensure that it conforms fully to the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, with special attention to the points raised in section 7 of the Office Action. It is believed that the rejection has been obviated, and, therefore, its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-17, 21, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,552,901 (Kikuchi et al.). The Office Action rejected Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,579,126 (Otsuka). The Office Action rejected Claims 8, 18, 20, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,644,404 (Hashimoto et al.).

As shown above, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 7, 13, and 17-23 in terms that more clearly define the present invention. Applicant submits that these amended independent claims, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is directed to a data communication system. The system includes a connector for connecting a data processing terminal to the system, an operation input unit for receiving a designation manually inputted by an operator, and a data transmitter for

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transmitting data based on the designation inputted by the operation input unit. The data is transmitted to an external data communication terminal via a line that does not include the connector.

In accordance with a change in state of the data communication system, a notification unit of the system notifies the data processing terminal, via the connector, of transmission result information representing a data transmission performed by the data transmitter based on the designation inputted by the operation input unit.

One important feature of Claim 1 is that the data processing terminal (that is, a user on a network) is notified of the transmission result information representing the data transmission performed by the data communication system based on a manual designation by the operator. The notification is performed in accordance with a change in state of the data communication system.

Kikuchi et al., as understood by Applicant, relates to a facsimile server system. Apparently, Kikuchi et al. teaches that a remote FAX 9 transfers to a FAX server 1 registered data, consisting of abbreviation or one-touch dialing data, stored in a parameter table 26, in a case where a user has registered or altered the abbreviation or one-touch dialing data through an operation panel of the remote FAX 9. (See, for example, column 18, lines 7-19).

Applicant submits, however, that the registered data of Kikuchi et al. is not equivalent to or suggestive of the transmission result information of Claim 1. Unlike Claim 1, the registered data is not data representing a data transmission performed by a data transmitter, as claimed in Claim 1. Instead, the registered data apparently is stored in a parameter table to facilitate abbreviated dialing.

Nothing in Kikuchi et al. has been found that teaches or suggests "a notification unit, adapted to notify the data processing terminal, via said connector, of transmission result information representing a data transmission performed by said data transmitter based on the designation inputted by said operation input unit, wherein said notification unit notifies the data processing terminal of the transmission result information in accordance with a change in state of said data communication system," as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Kikuchi et al., and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Independent Claims 18 and 21-23 include the same feature, in which a data processing terminal is notified of transmission result information representing a data transmission performed by a data communication system, wherein the notification is performed in accordance with a change in state of the data communication system, as discussed above in connection

with Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 18 and 21-23 are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 7 is directed to a data communication system. The system includes a connector for connecting to a network that is connectable to a plurality of data processing terminals. The system also includes an operation input unit for receiving a designation manually inputted by an operator, and a designation unit for designating an ID from the manual designation. The ID represents a user on the network.

A data transmitter of the system transmits data based on a designation inputted by the operation input unit in accordance with an ID designation performed by the designation unit. The data is transmitted to an external data communication terminal via a line that does not include the connector. A notification unit of the system notifies the user on the network, via the connector, of information representing a data transmission performed by the data transmitter based on the designation inputted by the operation input unit and in accordance with the ID designation performed by the designation unit.

The system further includes a determination unit for determining whether or not an ID is designated by the designation unit, and a controller for controlling the notification unit in

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accordance with a determination result of the determination unit.

One important feature of Claim 7 is that the determination unit determines whether or not an ID representing a user on the network is designated by the designation unit, and the controller controls the notification unit based on a determination result from the determination unit.

In contrast to Claim 7, Kikuchi et al. apparently teaches that an ID designation is performed only when a client 3 (assumed to correspond to the user on the network of Claim 7) issues an instruction to perform data transmission. However, the ID designation is not performed in a case where data transmission takes place based on a signal from an operation control unit 22 (assumed to correspond to the operation input unit of Claim 7). Thus, Applicant submits that Kikuchi et al. fails to teach or suggest any structure for determining whether an ID representing a user on a network is designated, and for controlling notification to the user of information representing a data transmission, based on a determination result, as claimed in Claim 7.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 7 is not anticipated by Kikuchi et al., and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Independent Claim 19 is a computer memory medium claim corresponding to system Claim 7, and is believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in

connection with Claim 7.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 13 is directed to a method of controlling a data processing terminal and a data communication system, which are interconnected via a connector to perform data communication with a destination. According to the method, an operator manually inputs a destination at an input unit that is a part of the data communication system. Based on the inputted destination, data is transmitted to an external data communication terminal via a line that does not include the connector.

In a reception step of the method, communication result information, representing a data communication performed in accordance with a manual operation inputted by the operator, is received from the data communication system, and in an instruction step of the method, the data communication system is instructed to communicate with the destination. According to a storage step of the method, the communication result information received in the reception step and communication result information representing a data communication based on an instruction in the instruction step are independently stored.

The Office Action asserts that the storage step of Claim 13 is disclosed in Kikuchi et al. at column 6, lines 64 to column 7, line 24. However, the cited portion of Kikuchi et al., as understood by Applicant, merely deals with storing a telephone number of a transmission destination and communication history

information, which includes an identifier for a remote facsimile apparatus, a communication mode, a user identifier, the number of sheets in a communication, and a communication result. Applicant submits that such items are not equivalent to or suggestive of "independently storing the communication result information received in said reception step and communication result information representing a data communication based on an instruction in said instruction step," wherein the reception step involves "communication result information representing a data communication performed in accordance with a manual operation inputted by the operator in said input step" being received from the data communication system, and wherein the instruction step involves "instructing the data communication system to communicate with the destination," as recited in Claim 13. That is, Kikuchi et al. fails to disclose or suggest independently storing the two different types of communication result information claimed in Claim 13.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 13 is not anticipated by Kikuchi et al., and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Independent Claim 20 is a computer memory medium claim corresponding to method Claim 13, and is believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 13.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in

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Claim 23 is directed to a computer-readable storage medium storing a program for implementing a method for controlling a data communication system that communicates with an external device and a data processing terminal. The program includes code for inputting a manual designation to the data communication system, and code for transmitting data to the external device, via a transmission path, based upon the inputted manual designation, and producing a transmission result. As a consequence of a change in state of the data communication system and via a signal path that is not the transmission path, the data processing terminal is notified of the transmission result by the program's code for notifying.

Hashimoto et al., as understood by Applicant, relates to a facsimile system in which a receiving-end user issues a request for access to received facsimile data, and a response data creating unit of the system creates response data indicating that the facsimile data has been accessed at the receiving end. The response data is then sent to a sending-end user to notify him or her that the facsimile data has been accessed. The Office Action cited Hashimoto et al. for disclosing the feature of controlling a data communication system with a computer-readable program.

Applicant submits that a combination of Kikuchi et al. and Hashimoto et al., assuming such combination would even be permissible, would fail to teach or suggest a computer-readable

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program that includes "code for notifying, as a consequence of a change in state of the data communication system and via a signal path that is not the transmission path, the data processing terminal of the transmission result," as recited in Claim 23. The above discussion concerning Claim 1 is also applicable here.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 23 is patentable over the cited art, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything that, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as applied against the independent claims herein. Therefore, those claims are respectfully submitted to be patentable over the art of record.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above, and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All

correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A data communication system comprising:

[connection means for connecting] a connector, adapted to connect a data processing terminal to said data communication system;

an operation [means for inputting] input unit, adapted to receive a manual designation [caused] manually inputted by an operator, said operation [means] input unit being a part of said data communication system;

[transmission means for transmitting] a data transmitter, adapted to transmit data based on the designation [input] inputted by said operation [means through] input unit, the data being transmitted to an external data communication terminal via a line [which is different from said connection means] that does not include said connector; and

a notification [means for notifying] unit, adapted to notify the data processing terminal [through], via said [connection means] connector, of [a] transmission result information [related to] representing a data transmission performed by said [transmission means] data transmitter based on the designation [input] inputted by said operation [means] input unit,

wherein said notification unit notifies the data

processing terminal of the transmission result information in

accordance with a change in state of said data communication

system.

2. (Amended) A data communication system according to

claim 1, wherein said [transmission means] data transmitter

transmits data based on [the basis of] a second designation from

the data processing terminal connected [through] to said data

communication system via said [connection means] connector.

3. (Amended) A data communication system according to

claim 1, wherein the transmission result information notified by

said notification [means] unit includes at least one of a

transmission destination, a transmission time, and a number of

transmission pages.

4. (Amended) A data communication system according to

claim 1, wherein said notification [means performs notification]

unit notifies the data processing terminal of the transmission

result information in accordance with a change in information to

be notified.

5. (Amended) A data communication system according to

claim 1, wherein said notification [means] unit notifies the data

processing terminal of information [related to] representing the data transmission upon completion of the data transmission performed by said [transmission means] data transmitter.

6. (Amended) A data communication system according to claim 1, wherein said notification [means] unit notifies the data processing terminal of data transmitted by said [transmission means] data transmitter.

7. (Amended) A data communication system comprising:

[connection means for connecting] a connector, adapted to connect a network that is connectable to a plurality of data processing [terminal] terminals to said data communication system;

an operation [means for inputting] input unit, adapted to receive a manual designation [caused] manually inputted by an operator, said operation [means] input unit being a part of said data communication system;

a designation [means for designating] unit, adapted to designate an ID, representing a user on the network connected by said connector, from the manual designation inputted by way of an operation of said operation [means] input unit;

[transmission means for transmitting] a data transmitter, adapted to transmit data based on [the] a designation [input] inputted by said operation [means] input unit

in accordance with [the] _an_ ID designation performed by said designation [means] _unit, the data being transmitted to an external data communication terminal via a line that does not include said connector;_

_a_ notification [means for notifying] _unit, adapted to notify_ [the data processing terminal through] _the user on the network connected by said connector, via_ said [connection means] _connector,_ of information [related to] _representing a_ data transmission performed by said [transmission means] _data transmitter_ based on the designation [input] _inputted_ by said operation [means] _input unit and_ in accordance with the ID designation performed by said designation [means] _unit;_

_a_ determination [means for determining] _unit, adapted to determine_ whether _or not_ the ID is designated by said designation [means or not] _unit;_ and

[control means for controlling] _a controller, adapted to control_ said notification [means] _unit_ in accordance with a determination result [determined by] _of_ said determination [means] _unit._

8. (Amended) A data communication system according to claim 7, wherein said notification [means] _unit_ does not perform _a_ notification _process_ in an absence of an ID designated by said designation [means] _unit._

9. (Amended)   A data communication system according to claim 7, wherein the ID designated by said designation [means] unit is information representing a user on a network.

10. (Amended)   A data communication system according to claim 7, wherein said [transmission means] data transmitter transmits data, based on [the basis of] the [designation] designated ID, from the data processing terminal connected [through] to said data communication system via said [connection means] connector.

11. (Amended)   A data communication system according to claim 7, wherein the information notified by said notification [means] unit includes at least one of a transmission destination, a transmission time, and a number of transmission pages.

12. (Amended)   A data communication system according to claim 7, wherein said notification [means] unit notifies the data processing terminal of the data transmitted by said [transmission means] data transmitter.

13. (Twice Amended)   A method of controlling a data processing terminal, connected via a connector to a data communication system for performing data communication with a destination, [for] and of controlling the data communication

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system, said method comprising:

an input step, in which an operator manually inputs a destination, said input step being performed at an input unit that is a part of the data communication system;

a transmission step, in which data is transmitted based on the destination inputted in said input step, the data being transmitted to an external data communication terminal via a line that does not include the connector;

a reception step [of receiving a], in which communication result information [related to] representing a data communication performed [by] in accordance with a manual operation [performed by the data communication via an operation unit which is a part of the data communication system] inputted by the operator in said input step is received from the data communication system;

an instruction step of instructing the data communication system to communicate with the destination; and

a storage step of independently storing the communication result information received in said reception step and communication result information [related to] representing a data communication based on [the] an instruction in said instruction step.

14. (Amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein information representing a user ID received in said reception

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step[,] and the communication result information related to the data communication are stored in an area corresponding to the user ID in said storage step.

17. (Twice Amended) A method of controlling a system [having] that includes a data communication system for performing data communication with a destination and a data processing terminal for controlling the data communication system, said method comprising the steps of:

at the data communication system:

designating an ID based on [the basis of] a manual operation performed by a user using an operation input unit [equipped with] of the data communication system [and];

performing data communication[,] with an external data communication terminal in accordance with the ID designation; and

notifying the data processing terminal [through said connection means], via a connector connecting the data communication system and the data processing terminal, of communication result information [related to] representing the data communication [to a] with the external data communication terminal, and

[said] at the data processing terminal:

[an instruction step of] instructing the data communication system to communicate with [the] a destination;

receiving [a] communication result information notified by the data communication system[,] <u>in said notifying step;</u> and

[a storage step of] independently storing the communication result information related to <u>the</u> data communication based on [the] <u>an</u> instruction in said [instruction] <u>instructing</u> step and [the] communication result information received from the data communication system in [the reception] <u>said receiving</u> step.

18. (Amended) A computer<u>-</u>readable [program, stored in a] storage medium[,] <u>storing a program for implementing a method</u> for controlling a data communication system connected to a data processing terminal [through] <u>via</u> a connector, [said] <u>the</u> program comprising:

<u>program code for</u> an input step of [inputting] <u>receiving</u> a [manual] designation [caused] <u>manually inputted</u> by an operator using an operation unit [which] <u>that</u> is part of the data communication system;

<u>program code for</u> a transmission step of transmitting data based on [a] <u>the</u> designation [input] <u>manually inputted</u> in said input step [through]<u>, the data being transmitted to an external data communication terminal via</u> a line [which is different from] <u>that does not include</u> the connector; and

<u>program code for</u> a notification step of notifying the

data processing terminal [through], via the connector, of [a]

transmission result information [related to] representing a data

communication performed in [said] the transmission step based on

the designation [input] manually inputted in [said] the input

step and in accordance with a change in state of the data

communication system.

19. (Amended) A computer-readable [program, stored in

a] storage medium[,] storing a program for implementing a method

for controlling a data communication system connected to a

network that is connectable to a plurality of data processing

[terminal by] terminals via a [connecting means for connecting

the data communication system to the data processing terminal],

connector, [said] the program comprising:

program code for an input step of [inputting] receiving

a [manual] designation [caused] manually inputted by an operator

using an operation unit [which] that is a part of the data

communication system;

program code for a designation step of designating an

ID, representing a user on the network connected by the

connector, from the manually inputted designation;

program code for a transmission step of transmitting

data based on a designation [input] manually inputted in [said]

the input step and in accordance with the ID [designation

performed by said] designated in the designation [means] step,

the data being transmitted to an external data communication terminal via a line that does not include the connector;

program code for a notification step of notifying the [data processing terminal through said connection means] user on the network connected by the connector, via the connector, of information [related to] representing a data communication performed in [said] the transmission step based on the designation [input] manually inputted in said input step and in accordance with the ID designated in [said] the designation step;

program code for a determination step of determining whether [the] an ID is designated in [said] the designation step; and

program code for a control step of controlling [said notifying] the notification step in accordance with a determination result [determined in said determining] of the determination step.

20. (Amended) A computer-readable [program, stored in a] storage medium[,] storing a program for implementing via a connector a method for controlling a data processing terminal[,] connected to a data communication system for performing data communication with a destination, and for controlling the data communication system, [said] the program comprising:

program code for an input step, in which an operator manually inputs a designation, the input step being performed at

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an input unit that is a part of the data communication system;

program code for a transmission step, in which data is transmitted based on the designation inputted in the input step, the data being transmitted to an external data communication terminal via a line that does not include the connector;

program code for a reception step [of receiving a], in which is received communication result information [related to] representing a data communication performed by the data communication system [using a manual operation unit that is a part of the data communication system] based on the designation manually inputted by the operator in the input step from the data communication system;

program code for an instruction step [of instructing], in which the data communication system is instructed to communicate with the destination by the data processing terminal; and

program code for a storage step [of], in which is independently [storing] stored the communication result information received in [said] the reception step and communication result information [related to] representing the data communication based on [the] an instruction in [said] the instruction step.

21. (Amended) A data communication system [which] that communicates with an external device via a transmission path, and

[which also] that communicates with a data processing terminal, comprising:

a signal path through which [the] said data communication system communicates with the data processing terminal, said signal path being a path different from the transmission path;

an input section through which an operator manually inputs a [manual] designation to the data communication system;

a transmitter that, based upon the [input manual] manually inputted designation, transmits data through the transmission path to the external device; and

a notifier which, because of a change in state of [the] said data communication system, notifies the data processing terminal through [the] said signal path of [a] transmission result information corresponding to the data transmitted by [the] said transmitter based upon the [input manual] manually inputted designation.

22. (Amended) A method of controlling a data communication system [which] that communicates with an external device and with a data processing terminal, said method comprising the steps of:

manually inputting a [manual] designation to the data communication system;

transmitting data to the external device, via a

transmission path, based upon the [input manual] manually
inputted designation, said transmitting step [having] producing a
transmission result; and

notifying, as a consequence of a change in state of the
data communication system and via a signal path [which is] that
does not correspond to the transmission path, the data processing
terminal of the transmission result.

23. (Amended) A computer-readable [program, stored in
a] storage medium[,] storing a program for implementing a method
for controlling a data communication system [which] that
communicates with an external device and a data processing
terminal, [said] the program comprising [the steps of]:

code for inputting a manual designation to the data
communication system;

code for transmitting data to the external device, via
a transmission path, based upon the [input] inputted manual
designation, [said] the transmitting step [having] producing a
transmission result; and

code for notifying, as a consequence of a change in
state of the data communication system and via a signal path
[which] that is not the transmission path, the data processing
terminal of the transmission result.

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